

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0314

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY
SUBJECT: LIBYAN SITUATION EGYPTIAN BORDER

1. DPO HAD OPPORTUNITY TODAY TO TALK TO TWO YOUNG AMCITS OF QUASI HIPPI VARIETY WHO IN LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE TRAVELLED FROM TUNIS TO ALEXANDRIA BY AUTOMOOILE ARRIVING YESTERDAY.

2. IN GENERAL WHILE IN LIBYA AMCITS SAID THEY WERE OVERWHELMED WITH HOSPITALITY BY LIBYANS AND INCURRED NO DIFFICULTIES IN ENTERING OR DEPARTING LIBYA. ACCORDING TO THEM THEY SAW MANY POSTERS OF NASSER IN TRIPOLI AND WERE TOLD BY SEVERAL LIBYANS THAT SADAT WAS QUOTE A MADMAN UNQUOTE. ON OTHER HAND, LIOYANS THEY ENCOUNTERED SPOKE HIGHLY OF GADDAFI AND THEY SAID WHEN THEY WERE ASKED IN RETURN FOR THEIR OPINION OF HIM THEY HEAPD ON THE PRAISE.

3. DPO INQUIRED WHERE THEY HAD OBTAINED EGYPTIAN VISAS AND THEY SAID THEY WERE ABLE TO GET THEM AT EGYPTIAN MISSION IN TRIPOLI IN ABOUT HALF HOUR ON ABOUT APRIL 19 OR 20. THEY SAID MISSION WAS ONLY GUARDED BY ONE LIBYAN SOLDIER AND THEY ENCOUNTERED NO DIFFICULTY ENTERING OR LEAVING IT. MISSION SEEMED TO THEM TO BE CONDUCTING ROUTINE BUSINESS ROUTINELY. AMCITS LIKEWISE ENCOUNTERED NO DIFFICULTY ON LIBYAN HIGHWAYS OR EXITING LIBYA.
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THEY CLAIMED TO HAVE NOTICED VERY LITTLE LIBYAN MILITARY PRESENCE OTHER THAN OF WHAT THEY THOUGHT TO BE LARGE LIBYAN MILITARY BASE UNDER CONSTRUCTION ALONG HIGHWAY ABOUT TWENTY KILOMETERS FROM EGYPTIAN BORDER.

4. ACCORD
ING TO AMCITS, EGYPTIAN SIDE OF BORDER HOWEVER WAS QUITE

DIFFERENT TORY. THEY CROSSED AT SALLOUM. BORDER CHECK WAS VERY STRICT INCLUDING VERY EXACTING SEARCH OF AUTOMOBILE AND PERSONAL EFFECTS. THEIR DESCRIPTION OF AREA BETWEEN BORDER AND MERSAH MATROU WAS THAT OF ARMED CAMP WITH VERY LARGE NUMBERS OF TROOPS, WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS MACHINE GUN EMPLACEMENTS AND ARMORED VEHICLES. LIKEWISE MERSAH MATROU CITY WAS FULL OF TROOPS WITH BARBED WIRE ON BEACH AND THREE SMALL NAVAL VESSELS OFFSHORE. CITY ALSO SEEMED TO BE UNDER SAME SORT OF CURFEW AS AT ABOUT TWO AM JEEPS DROVE THROUGH THE CITY SOUNDING SIRENS AT WHICH POINT CAFES CLOSED DOWN AND PEOPLE WENT HOME. BETWEEN BORDER AND SIDI ABEL RAHMAN AMCITS AND THEIR PAPERS WERE CHECKED AT EIGHT ROAD BLOCKS.

5. DPO WAS RELUCTANT TO PUCH PRIVATE AMCITS TOO HAR
ON DETAILS AS
THEY WERE BECOMING SOMEWHAT UNEASY WITH QUESTIONS. ON OTHER HAND,
DESPITE THEIR INESPERTISE, ABOVE WAS FIRST RECENT EXPERIENCE OF
AMCIT TRAVELLERS FROM THAT DIRECTION WE HAVE HEARD.
CHASE

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